

Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy to the Virginia Board of Education

Meeting Date and Location: March 30, 2011
James Monroe Building
Conference Room E, First Floor
Richmond, Virginia

Minutes

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Dr. Thomas M. Brewster
Ms. Elaine Callahan
Ms. Carol Coffey
Mrs. Deborah D. Hinton
Mrs. Deborah Hunley-Stukes
Ms. Annette Loschert
Ms. Betsy Mathias
Dr. Bonita Moore
Dr. Paulette Richmond
Dr. Troilen Seward
Ms. Bette Sneed
Mr. Randall Stamper (Ex-Officio)

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

The Honorable Kenneth R. Plum
The Honorable Phillip P. Puckett

Guests:

Ms. Barbara Simmons
Ms. Caroline Thurston

Department of Education Staff:

Mr. James Andre
Mr. George Bailey
Ms. Debbie Bergtholdt
Ms. Emily Ferlis
Ms. Cynthia Finley
Ms. Gloria Murphy
Dr. Michael Nusbaum
Mr. Thomas Suh

Full Advisory Committee Convenes

10 a.m.

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Acting Chair Dr. Thomas Brewster called the meeting to order and welcomed members. He announced that the floor was open for nominations for the office of chair of the Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Troilen Seward to nominate Dr. Brewster as chair. The motion was seconded. A motion was made and seconded to close the nomination. The motion to affirm Dr. Brewster as chair was carried unanimously.

Dr. Brewster introduced new committee members, Ms. Annette Loschert, Ms. Betsy Mathias, Dr. Paulette Richmond, and Ms. Bette Sneed.

Office of Adult of Education and Literacy Updates

- Mr. Randall Stamper, OAEL Director, presented an overview of the department's Annual Performance Report to the U.S. Department of Education, including the status of the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. Mr. Stamper also shared with the group information on the following Leadership Projects in Adult Education and Literacy:
 - Virginia Adult Educator Certification Project
 - Race to GED Historical Report
 - Content Standards
 - Targeted Technical Assistance Contractors
 - EL-Civics Symposium
 - Data Summit
 - National Trends and Priorities
 - Increased Access
 - Partnerships
 - Teacher Quality
 - Data Quality
 - Integrated Education and Training
- Mr. James Andre, Specialist for Federal Programs, and Ms. Emily Ferlis, Program Improvement Specialist at the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, reported on past performance measures. It was noted that performance overall has decreased in recent years. OAEL is focusing efforts on retention, policy implementation, data quality, improvement of data matching, and data-driven decision making to improve educational and follow-up outcome performance. A report on the Data Summit, held in Roanoke in March was shared. The focus of the summit was using data for program improvement and planning. One hundred thirty-seven people attended the summit.

- Ms. Debbie Bergtholdt, State GED Administrator, presented information on GED testing and credentialing numbers. The total number of GED test takers has decreased in the past year, and the pass rate is down from the previous year. These declines are believed to be the result of an emphasis on an instructional strategy that encourages test takers to consider taking one test at a time as they are ready in each subject area. She also presented information about the GED Testing Service's 21st Century Initiative, which is being developed based on the Common Core Standards. The discussion focused on the upcoming changes in the GED Tests and the implications of these changes for the state's learners, test takers, and teachers. It was reported that the 21st Century Initiative will begin in 2014, and the new tests will be computer-based only.
- Mr. Thomas Suh, Specialist for Data, Monitoring, and Evaluation, provided an update of OAEL's corrective action that originated with the 2006 federal monitoring visit. He reported that the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that OAEL developed as a result of the monitoring visit is scheduled to be closed on September 30, 2011.
- Mr. Randall Stamper presented information about the new competition for 2012-2013 Adult Basic Education awards, including the state plan for implementation, funding issues, and regionalization. Mr. Stamper also reported that negotiations with an outside vendor to begin a strategic planning project for OAEL were nearing completion.

Questions from the Committee Members and Discussion with OAEL Staff

Adjournment

The Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.